



THE TIGER TRACKS

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Soldier and Family Group Edition



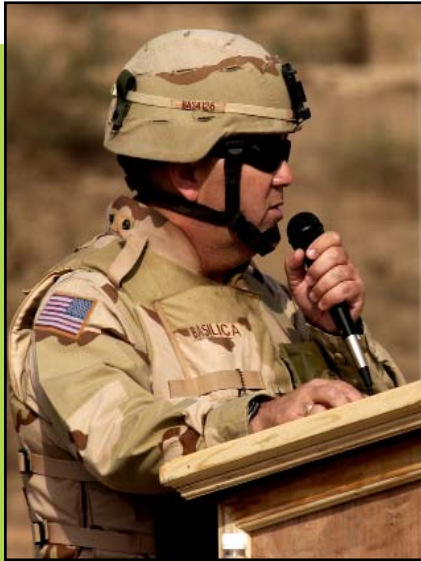
256th Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs Office

Photo by Spc. Erin Robicheaux

The next edition will be dedicated to our Fallen Soldiers.

To the Families and Troops

BG John Basilica, Jr.
256 BCT Commander



The 256 BCT has been in sector now for about a month. In that time, we have already demonstrated our prowess and proficiency in combat. The Tiger Brigade conducted Operation Tiger Strike I, a complex, Brigade coordinated, two task force movement to contact to expand our battle

space and secure key terrain. We have engaged the enemy in small patrols across Area of Operation (AO) Tiger and secured numerous caches of arms and munitions. We have begun a number of projects to improve the essential services for the Iraqi people including; potable water, sewer improvements, school and medical clinic renovations. We have organized and prepared for the establishment of two new Iraqi National Guard battalions and more Iraqi police officers. We are prepared to assist the Iraqi people in improving their agricultural prospects. We are preparing to provide security support to the upcoming elections. The Tiger Brigade is making a difference across all of the Lines of Operations (LOO). But this progress has already come at a great cost. Three members of the Tiger team have given their lives in the conduct of their duties. We honor their sacrifice, salute their courage and selfless service to their country and embrace their families and share in their loss. To our fallen comrades: you are gone but not forgotten. We will continue the fight. Tiger Brigade!

CSM James Mays
256 BCT Sergeant Major

Soldiers of the Tiger Brigade, we have been here for over a month and I hope that all of you are getting used to your new housing. There is a lot to do to make it home here for the next year. Trash is a big issue and I know that you don't litter on your own yard at home so make this a clean place. Safety in



the housing area is another problem. Moving and parking of trucks around the barracks area is a no go. There are Soldiers walking around at night, so keep your vehicles out of the sleeping quarters.

Keep the noise level to a minimum.

Soldiers are trying to sleep at all times of the day, so please play it only where you can hear it. There is also a lot of furniture being replaced everyday. You are signing for it so take care of it and keep it clean. Report damages that happen so that you don't have to pay for it in the end. This is our home for the next year so let's make it a good one.

The Tiger Tracks is a publication of the 256th Brigade Public Affairs Office. This Soldier and Family Support Group newsletter contains official information and complies with the provisions of AR 360-81 and AR 25-51. Questions or concerns can be directed to the editor at taysha.deaton@us.army.mil.

Editor: 2Lt. Taysha Deaton
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Staff Writer: Spc. Erin Robicheaux



The Combat Patch



Tiger Brigade,

There has been much emotional discussion surrounding the wear of the combat patch for members of the 256 Brigade Combat Team. I want to take the opportunity to address the issue, clear up some misconceptions and generally explain my position on this matter. First, I am sure it comes as no surprise to any soldier that there is an Army regulation that provides specific guidance on the wear of Shoulder Sleeve Insignia - Former War Time Service (SSI-FWTS). The regulation clearly indicates that the 256 BCT (because it is a separate brigade) has the honor and distinction of being a SSI unit. That means it is part of an elite group of units which are entitled to wear their own patch. The regulation further provides that when a unit is authorized to wear the SSI - FWTS (i.e. the combat patch) that it WILL wear the unit's SSI. The language in the regulation is prescriptive and contains no provisions for discretion (choice) on the part of the soldier, except in the following cases; 1) Soldiers may elect not to wear a combat patch at all, or 2) if a Soldier is authorized to wear more than one SSI - FWTS patch (as a result of serving in combat in two or more different conflicts), the Soldier may choose which combat patch to wear.

I am well aware that many Tiger Brigade Soldiers want to wear the 1st Cavalry Division patch as their combat patch. To want to signify your affiliation with a unit as outstanding as the 1st Cav is very understandable. However, the regulation simply does not permit it. I am also aware that some units/individuals have not complied with this regulation. I am not in habit of ignoring regulations and I will not do so in this instance out of convenience or personal preference.

I know many of you are disappointed in my position to comply with the regulation. Quite frankly, I am disappointed also. I am disappointed that some Soldiers would favor wearing the patch of another unit over their own. To wear any other patch, obscures our identity as a Brigade Combat Team that fought in combat in our own right. To be one of the Army's elite separate infantry brigades has always been a source of great pride for the Tiger Brigade. To suggest now, in our proudest moment, that we should subordinate our patch for another makes no sense to me.

We have 4,000 Tiger Brigade patches on order. We will have a ceremony soon to award every Soldier a combat patch. I hope you all will join me and wear it on your right sleeve with pride.

-Brig. Gen. John Basilica Jr.

Chaplains Corner

Weekly Chapel Schedule

Sunday:

- 0900 Roman Catholic Mass
- 1030 Contemporary Protestant
- 1300 Gospel Protestant
- 1500 Traditional Protestant
- 1900 Non Denominational Christian
- 2130 Evening Christian Service

Monday:

- 0800 "Rosary"
- 0900 "The Gospel of Matthew"
- 1500 "Purpose Driven Life"
- 1900 "R.C.C. Catechetical Instruction"
- 2000 "Tough Questions Bible Study"
- 2100 "The Gospel of Matthew"

Tuesday:

- 1900 "Purpose Driven Life"
- 2000 Evening Prayer Meeting
- 2100 "Advent Series"

Wednesday:

- 0900 "HIS Story - O.T. History as it Prophecies Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King"
- 1500 "Chaplet of Divine Mercy"
- 1900 "Purpose Driven Life"
- 2000 Midweek Worship Service
- 2100 "HIS Story - O.T. History as it Prophecies Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King"

Thursday:

- 0900 "Revelation - Church Victorious"
- 1900 Praise Team Practice Session
- 2030 "Revelation - Church Victorious"
- 2130 Worship Musician's Practice

Friday:

- 1900 "Purpose Driven Life"
- 2000 "Hollywood Buzz - Movies & Discussion"

Saturday:

- 0900 Lutheran Worship Service
- 1800 Women's Bible Study
- 1900 Gospel Choir Practice

Thanksgiving

By Spc. Erin Robicheaux
256th BCT Public Affairs

Tiger Style

At the newly christened "Tiger Den" Dining Facility (DFAC) over 3500 Soldiers of the 256th Tiger Brigade were welcomed to a Thanksgiving feast that brought them as close to Louisiana, the home state of the brigade, as anything short of a commercial airliner could have.

The day began with a speech by the commander, Brig. Gen. John Basilica, Jr.

"Almost four hundred years ago, two groups of people with vastly different backgrounds and beliefs came together in peace with a common purpose to share a meal and to share a collective prayers in their in their own way to a higher authority for continued peace and cooperation," said Basilica. "Our wish today here with the Iraqi people is no different. We seek only to bring the blessings of liberty to them and to give them hope that peace and stability can and will be enjoyed by them and future generations of Iraqi people."

Arriving at the dining facility, may have seemed to some like walking on a pier in the Cajun French home of the 256 Brigade. In front of the building, sat a large-scale replica of the Mayflower with a PA system blaring Zydeco music. Throughout the day, Soldiers and leadership alike mingled and enjoyed sounds of the smooth accordion and fiddle, and some even chose to use the area around the historic ship as a dance floor.

For those who wished to remain outdoors and join in the festivities, there was a cage set up for "Chase the Turkey," an event which traditionally entails chasing a turkey around the pen and upon catching it, cooking it for the Thanksgiving meal. After entering the building, however, it was abundantly clear that no more cooking would be necessary for the day.

Seated on lavishly decorated tables, bountiful cornucopias made entirely of dough and overflowing with fruits and vegetables lured the Soldiers toward the serving lines. Three main lines offered the tradi-

tional Turkey Day choices, but the chefs of Gulf Catering Company threw in a twist in honor of the Tiger Brigade's first holiday in Iraq. One entire line of eatables was primarily food from Louisiana including jambalaya, boudin balls, red beans and rice, and etouffee. The staff at the Tiger Den DFAC said that they felt as if having food from home would help take the melancholy out of being a world away on such a holiday.

"It was good to have food from Louisiana," said Sgt. Brooklyn Francis, Food Service Monitor, HHC 256, 256th Brigade Combat Team.

"Soldiers have bad days often enough and maybe having food that reminds them of home may make them feel more at ease." In addition to the main course, Soldiers were also given a variety of choices when it came to the dessert.

Cakes, pies, and ice cream were at the full convenience of the Thanksgiving meal mongers, including a table that

had cakes designed for each unit stationed at Camp Liberty. In the center of the DFAC sat a 7 layer cake with the 1st Cavalry Division patch on the bottom layer signifying that it was the first DFAC in the camp. The additional six layers were representative of the six remaining DFACs in the area.

According to many Soldiers perhaps the most enjoyable moment of the serving line experience was seeing their leadership and chains of command serve them the traditional meal. The officers and senior non-commissioned officers (NCOs) said that they enjoyed giving the troops the moment to relish.

"I really enjoyed serving my Soldiers," said First Sergeant Michael LaPlace of New Orleans, Louisiana, HHC 256. "It made the morale here really good and it helped to keep the troops' minds occupied." Sergeant Danny Guillory of Lake Charles, Louisiana, C Company, 3/156th said that although he had a mission later on that evening he really enjoyed the celebration. "Of course there's nothing like being home and everyday is like a Monday, but all of this



has really helped to make this holiday easier."

The "down home" feeling of Louisiana doesn't stop with the Soldiers of the 256th. Donnie Koonce is a contractor for Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR) and hails from Lake Charles, Louisiana. He claims that he

is thrilled that the Tiger Brigade is in his area.

"I've been here for ten months and today it feels like home." He says that the Zydeco music made the area seem more familiar to him and he was very impressed with the food and atmosphere exhibited by the staff of the Tiger Den.

Brothers Sgt. 1st Class Damon Hebert and Staff Sgt. Jason Hebert of Erath, Louisiana are both serving with the 256 BCT in Iraq. They agree that having each other here has made it a lot easier to deal with being away from the rest of the family.

"We still get lonesome for everyone back home," says Damon, "but I couldn't imagine going through this without a close family member with me. We're very lucky that way." Jason says that being able to sit down and have a Thanksgiving meal with his brother is reason enough to count his blessings.

"Although we don't get to see each other as often as we like, we know that we are luckier than most people that we can be here together."

Taking on a task of this proportion isn't an overnight process according to M.B. Karuppa Swamy, Food Service Manager for the facility.

He has been in the industry for seventeen years and says that with everything that goes into planning a huge event such as a holiday meal, it takes the dedication of many hands to get the job done efficiently.

"We rely heavily on KBR for this," he says,



without them we don't produce." Months before the Thanksgiving dinner Swamy researched by looking at past dinners to find ways to improve and also by searching through magazines and the internet for new and exciting ideas.

"A project such as this takes much planning and very long hours of work,

sometimes eighteen hour days," he adds, "but to see the smiles on the faces of the Soldiers is the reason why my staff and I do this. And we love what we do." The majority of Swamy's staff is professionally trained in culinary arts and those who aren't pick it up very quickly.

All one has to do is look around the dining hall to see the talent that lies within these people. Watermelons carved with intricate designs and potatoes made into colorful flowers grace the outer edges of the tables that hold a variety of ice sculptures.

The main attraction seemed to be a gingerbread house taller than most Soldiers who walked up to admire it. The "paneling" was made completely of gingerbread and trimmed in white icing and chocolate candies. Large chocolate chip cookies adorned the entire house while the shingles of the roof were made of chocolate and powdered sugar. These holiday creations also judged by KBR and awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place medals.

Although the Soldiers of the 256th BCT are a world away from home, on Thanksgiving Day the state of Louisiana magically appeared in Iraq. As the war on terror surges onward the Tigers have much to be thankful for amidst the chaos that surrounds the country that they so desperately wish to help.

In the words of the 256 BCT Commander, "On this Thanksgiving Day millions of families are saying millions of prayers in millions of homes around the world. We are what they are thankful for."

And according to many of the 256th Soldiers fighting the war on terror, they are thankful for that.



Tiger Brigade Medics

By Spc. Erin Robicheaux
256th BCT Public Affairs

Treat all equally

The worst case Staff Sgt. Robert Trahan has seen at his medical clinic since being here has been a gunshot wound to the stomach which resulted in evisceration. After the patient arrived in Trahan's Troop Medical Clinic (TMC), he was stabilized and bandaged up. Currently, the man is in the intensive care unit, but he is stable. This medical maneuver is an accomplishment for the staff, but this was no ordinary patient.

This man was an insurgent.

"Everyone has their rules of engagement, and the health care profession of the Army is no different," said Trahan, the clinic's noncommissioned officer in charge with Charlie Med, 199th Forward Support Battalion of the 256th Brigade Combat Team.

"Whatever happens out there doesn't matter, once the Soldier or insurgent hits our door, they become our patient. It's our job to care for them and do everything possible to save their life."

The patient who was recently cared for by Charlie Med 199th was firing rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at U.S. Soldiers. The Soldiers returned fire, hitting him in the stomach. A small group of Soldiers who were involved in the firefight were outside the clinic and at first protested to the care of their counterpart.

"Once we consoled the Soldiers and made them understand that this is our job, they were fine," Trahan said. "They sat outside and were calm about the situation."

The clinic is a Level II treatment facility, which means that they are equipped to handle everything just shy of surgery. There is always a doctor on duty, or on call. On site there is a lab, an x-ray room, a trauma center, a dentist's office, and on Fridays there is a licensed therapist on duty. If surgery is required, patients are medically evacuated to the 31st Combat Support Hospital ... moments away by helicopter.

Staff Sgt. Cory McClinton worked on an

ambulance as a civilian, but he said being a medic in the Tiger Brigade in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III is the learning experience of a lifetime.

"I want to pursue a career in the medical field and now is the best time for knowledge," he said.

McClinton, who runs the clinic's day shift, said there is no such thing as a normal day. Though there is a routine that revolves around sick call hours, the

patients that come in and out of the TMC on a daily basis make life interesting for the staff.

"We see a lot of problems that are common for people who are new to this type of climate, such as respiratory infections, vomiting, and diarrhea," he said. "Then you have the Soldier who comes in with an allergic reaction like we've never seen, to something that we just can't figure out. It makes you wonder what they have out here."

The Charlie Med TMC is under constant renovations. On the backside of the building, the medical personnel are hoping to have a triage area set up before long and they are also doing a lot of interior decorating including painting and basic sterilization of the facility.

The staff is also getting an abundance of new equipment that will help them provide the best care possible for the patients.

"We are getting five, which takes all vitals of the individual and will free the medic to perform other pertinent tasks," Trahan said.

The facility will also acquire two new electrocardiogram machines and will continue to receive new equipment throughout the duration of the deployment.

Trahan claims that he and his staff are fully charged and dedicated to their mission to take care of the Soldiers of the Tiger Brigade, or any human being who walks through their doors.

"We'll do everything that we can to save life, limb, or eyesight," McClinton added. "We all love helping people and find enjoyment in what we do."



Staff Sgt. Trahan and Staff Sgt. McClinton conduct a function check on a ProPak 12 at the 199th Forward Support Battalion's Troop Medical Clinic.

Kevlar Saves Life

By Spc. Erin Robicheaux
256th BCT Public Affairs

Second Chance Brothers

Spc. Daniel Chapman of Lake Charles, La. holds a kevlar helmet with the desert camouflage cover cut across the middle and runs his finger along where the bullet impacted the top of it.

Knowing that a Soldier's life could have been taken just a few nights before, he grinned. "I'm relieved to know that this equipment really works," he said.

Three days earlier, Chapman was in his company's operations center when the call came in for a medical evacuation. A Soldier from his unit, B Co. 3/156th, had sustained a gunshot to the head by sniper fire. Chapman patiently waited for the identity of the Soldier to be made as the staff ran through their procedures. In what seemed like an eternity to him, though he didn't want to believe it, the feeling in the pit of his gut was confirmed.

The Soldier was his brother.

Staff Sgt. Chad Chapman has worn many hats in his ten-year Army career as a sniper, a squad leader, and now as the commander of a gun truck. On a day that started out like any other, he and his crew were assisting the Iraqi National Guard (ING) in directing traffic after a fuel truck overturned in a curve. Things were going smoothly and all of a sudden Chapman felt as if he had been struck on the back of the head.

"I remember that it was loud because of the fuel trucks and all of the traffic," Chad said. "The next thing I knew, I felt something and thought that I had been hit with a board or a large object."

Staff Sgt. Chapman said the last thing he could recall before losing consciousness was hearing a ricochet. When he came to, he could hear his fellow Soldiers calling in for a medical evacuation.

He was awake long enough to realize that he'd been shot in the head by a sniper.

"I was unconscious for a little bit of the time, but I can remember one Soldier holding my neck," he said. "I can also remember the helicopter coming in because all of the dust tore up my face."

Chapman was in and out of consciousness for the next couple of days and doesn't remember much before waking up in the hospital. For a while he fought nausea and dizziness, along with "a great big pain in the neck."

A computerized axial topography (CAT) scan showed that he had a contusion, minor swelling and bruising on his brain. He was kept in the hospital for monitoring

and after a couple of days was released back to his unit.

As Chad was getting airlifted to the hospital, Daniel was back in the rear waiting to hear the status of his brother's life.

"I got chills when I heard his battle roster number," said the younger Chapman. "I knew that I couldn't start to freak out because people were trying to work and help my brother."

He said that he just stayed very quiet and tried his best to stay out of the way.

"Of course I wanted to jump in and do everything that I could, but I understood that everyone was assigned to a certain job, and chances were that they knew their job better than I did."

A few hours later, Daniel received the phone call that let him know that his brother would be okay. He then called his mom and dad to tell them the story. Their parents sounded okay to him, but couldn't contain their relief and excitement when they actually heard Chad's voice two days later.



Staff Sgt. Chad Chapman shows Brig. Gen. John Basilica, Jr. where the bullet almost took his life.

"My mom was so thrilled when I called that she dropped the phone," Chad said.

Each brother is counting his blessings that the eldest seemed to have dodged the bullet this time. If you ask Chad, though, it was all about the safety equipment.

"It brought situational awareness to the forefront and reminded me that I always need to be on my toes," the elder Chapman brother said.

Chad said he knows most Soldiers feel like bad things won't happen to them, but he is living proof that it can ... and will.

"Even out on missions sometimes, I took off my protection next to the vehicle for just a little break, but there won't be any more of that now," Chad said. It has also shown both brothers they should always be aware of their surroundings and pay attention to the details.

"I've been trying to remember everyone that I came into contact with that day, and what their demeanor was like," Chad said.

He remembered not long before the incident, he had to yell at three guys in a car because they wouldn't follow his instructions.

"To this day," Chad said, "I wonder if one of them may have been the sniper."

Family & Soldier Info.

1Lt. Christian Dean,
Ph.D, LMFT, NCC

Family and
Deployment

During your deployment you may find yourself having some concerns associated with communicating your experiences in a combat zone while trying not to alarm or worry loved ones. Most families are use to sharing intimate details of their lives to include activities at work; however, when we consider the dangers that we have and may possibly encounter, we may find ourselves withholding information from those we care about. For instance, if you have been engaged in a combat situation against enemy forces, you may not want to let your family know that your life was in danger earlier that day. Your significant other may recognize, by the sound of your voice, that you have something weighing heavily on your mind. You are use to pouring your heart and mind out to the ones you love, but now you are holding back information in order to protect them from excessive worrying or any painful thoughts that they may experience due to the life threatening event you experienced.

Couples and families are encouraged to consider the following methods of sharing enough information to maintain the emotional and spiritual connection without causing excessive worrying. NOTE: The word "family" in this article also applies to significant others.

1. Early in the deployment, make an agreement (compromise) as to how much and what type of information you will share with each other (or your family) concerning "the dangers" of being in a combat zone.

2. Write out everything you would want to tell your family about your day or week. Then scratch out

any information that would be considered "secret" or would compromise Operational Security (OPSEC). Then review the letter a second time and scratch out any information which may lead to unnecessary stress and worry on the part of your family. Thereafter, you may have a letter which expresses how you feel, but also does not compromise OPSEC.

3. You may not want to establish a set day and time every week to e-mail or call your family because one day you may get tasked to go out on a mission or to complete additional duties, which may lead to you not being able to call or e-mail. Your family may worry that something has happened to you because they have not heard from you. Discuss how you will call and e-mail whenever possible. Make sure to emphasize, that you, not calling or e-mailing does not mean that you are hurt or that you do not care.

4. Write letters to your family and ask them to write you. E-mails and telephone calls provide a quick solution to maintaining communication with your family; however, unless you have e-mail access available everywhere you go at any time you want, you will not be able to read the caring messages sent to you by your family. Your family may also appreciate something tangible that they can take with them and read at their leisure.

Hopefully explaining and discussing some of these suggestions will assist in easing communications with you and your family. If you have your own personal methods of communicating with your family that you have found works well, please e-mail suggestions to christian.j.dean@us.army.mil.

Holiday Stress

The winter holidays can be stressful for anyone, but when your loved one is deployed, this time of year can be especially difficult. You may experience a range of emotions, from concern to loneliness -- even anger and disappointment. The holidays may magnify those feelings, but they can also be a time to strengthen your emotional commitment to your Soldier and your family.

1. Plan ahead for the holidays

If possible, sit down with your deployed Soldier before your separation to talk about how you will celebrate the holidays. If you are already apart, discuss your plans through letters, e-mail, or telephone calls.

- Get an early start with gifts and cards.

- Record a holiday message.

- Be flexible with phone calls.

2. Surround yourself with people

Look for opportunities to be with family and friends.

Get together with others who are in your situation.

Being with others who are in the same situation helps prevent loneliness.

- Plan to attend holiday events for families of deployed Soldiers.

- If you have school-age children, attention holiday school events.

- Help organize a holiday party or potluck for families in your loved one's command.

- Visit friends or family on the holiday.

- Volunteer for a good cause.

3. Reduce holiday stress

it's easy to get caught up in all you I have to do during this time of

Family & Soldier Info.

year, especially if you have always shared the work with your deployed service member. Tell yourself you don't have to do everything. It's more important to take time out to enjoy the season.

Find ways to have fun.

-Get plenty of rest and exercise.

-Prioritize.

4. Be realistic about your expectations

As the family member of a deployed Soldier, it's important to be flexible, especially during the holidays. Here are some ways to do that:

-Accept that this holiday season will be different.

-Do something you wouldn't ordinarily do.

-Keep holiday decorations up until your loved one returns, if it makes you feel better.

-Prepare yourself for a post-holiday letdown.

For the full text of this article Visit Army One Source Online. Search for holiday stress.

*Submitted by Jennifer Blanchard
Family Asst. Center Coordinator*

Similar Desires

By Spc. Erin E. Robicheaux
256th Brigade Public Affairs

Honor Respect, and dignity are the most important aspects to a Muslim's life. It is better to die trying to retrieve honor than to go through life without it. Without honor a Muslim can get no job, they will be humiliated, they are shunned, and their family will be affected in this way also. If honor is lost the family or tribe will expect the Muslim to regain their honor.

The number one complaint of the Iraqi people about Americans is overall Soldier behavior. At times Soldiers have been known to be aggressive and rude and have displayed disrespect for the local

culture. Show the proper courtesies to women, tribal, and religious leaders. Give of your heart to the kids and the people of the communities, and show them that you are here to help them.

Women in the Iraqi society should be treated with the utmost respect. A woman must be a virgin at the time of her wedding. Under tribal law, if she loses her virginity, she must kill herself or a member of her family must kill her. Male Soldiers must be on their toes. DO NOT treat these women as if they are your baby sister or your mother.

In a survey taken recently, 83% of 100% of the people in Baghdad do not like the coalition but less than 2% want us to leave. They know that we are the key to their freedom. In essence, Americans and Iraqis are not very different in what they want out of life. The Iraqi people want safe schools, better roads, and a way to build and live out their dreams, and it is our job to help them achieve that.

SAFETY FIRST!

Chose To Look The Other Way

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
It wasn't that I didn't care,
I had the time, and I was there.
But I didn't want to seem a fool,
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he'd done the job before,
If I called it wrong, he might get sore.

The chances didn't seem that bad,
I've done the same he knew I had.
So I shook my head and walked on by,
He knew the risks as well as I.
He took a chance I closed an eye,
And with that act I let him die.
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
Now every time I see his wife,
I'll know I should have saved his

life.

That guilt is something I must bear,
But it isn't something you need to share.

If you see a risk that others take,
That puts their health or life at stake,
The question asked, or the thing you say,
Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,
Then hope you never have to say, I
could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

- Author Unknown

Centers for Army Lessons Learned (CALL)

Submit **Lessons Learned**, AARs and TTPs to Center for Army Lesson Learned (CALL), LTC Ryberg, 256th BCT, CALL, LNO, marie.ryberg@us.army.mil or marie.ryberg@1cd.army.smil.mil phone # VOIP 242-4348, location BDE TOC. Introducing the fully loaded 256 BCT Folders located on the SIPR, 1st CAV, 256th BCT Lesson Learned (Lesson Learned form attached to folder) and Tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP) folders. Special Attn: How can we improve post mobilization training compared to actual theater operations?

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256 BCT Family Affair

Brothers

Families, within the 256 BCT, enjoy Thanksgiving dinner together.....



Sgt. 1st Class Damon Hebert (left), Battle Staff Non-Commissioned Officer (NCOIC) for HHC 256 and Staff Sgt. Jason Hebert, Company Operations Sergeant and Gunner for HHC 2/156, enjoy Thanksgiving dinner together.

This is a chance for Soldiers and family members to express themselves (ie. poems, stories, quotes, pictures from home, etc). If you would like to submit something for the next edition, please feel free to email us 256_BCT_PublicAffairsOfficer@1cd.army.mil.



Staff Sgt. Darren Chabert, Battery Operation Chief of B 1/141 and Sgt. Eric Chabert, Fire Direction Center Chief, HHC 1/141.



Gen. Casey, Commander of Multi-National Forces-Iraq (MNF-I) shares a Thanksgiving moment with Cpl. Nicholas Hyde and Sgt. Andrew Hyde of HHC 256.

Photos by Sgt. Thomas Benoit

256 Families Cont.

"It is not flesh and blood but the heart which makes us fathers and sons."

--Johann Schiller



Sgt. 1st Class Troy Fontenot and Pfc. Cody Fontenot are a father and son in HHC 2/156 Maintenance Platoon.

Father & Sons

Master Sgt. John E. Moss serves as the Brigade Commo Chief, while his son, Sgt. Peter L. Moss is a mechanic in B Co. 199th FSB.



MY YOUNG MAN

By Jacqueline Johnson

My Young Man...Just beginning to live, is called to his country's war & asked to give. His mind, body, heart, and soul: his time, service, ferocity, and yes, be ever so bold!! Forget about the life you are presently living, concentrate on the freedom you are giving. Giving to everyone to remain free to live in America and be whatever you want to be.

Go forward, my young man and stand proud! Represent our country and let our voice be loud. Please try and stay out of harms way. You know your mama's praying for you each and every-day! Freedom must ring from every mountain top until it does, Americans will never stop.

For we are the greatest, bravest, and true. We go out and do what no other country can do! When the war is over and the fighting is done! When the stars continue to twinkle and fire glows from the sun. When some of your comrades you will no longer see, due to the life lost because of the powers that be. Americans everywhere will still be free! Thanks to my young man's blood, sweat, and tears. Yes, America will have her solidarity.

Dedicated to her son, Spc. Lance Johnson
E.1088th



Cpl. John Matthew's, Gunner for 2/156, Maj. Steve Scott of 199th FSB, and Spc. Corey Matthew's, driver for 2/156, have a family reunion for Scott's promotion from Captain to Major.

Soldier's Voice

How are Soldiers spending their
Christmas Holidays??

Christmas Holidays



Staff Sgt. Derek Tallant
HHC 1/156

"I'm going to perform my daily activities and try to participate in more Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) functions. I'm also going to call home, of course."

Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Gaines
HHC 256 Mail Room

"I'm looking forward to delivering as much mail as possible. I will work 16 hour days to make sure that the Soldiers receive their packages for Christmas. Seeing the smiles on their faces is what this job is all about, especially around the holidays."



Spc. Michelle Swanson
B/134

"I'm going to participate in as much sports as possible. I love outdoor activities and I've started taking Tae Kwan Do classes, and staying busy will help to keep my mind off of being away for the holidays. I played Santa over block leave, so I got to exchange presents with everyone."

Soldier's Voice

In their own words.....



Spc. Matt Lambert
Service Battery 1-141

"We've decorated a Christmas tree in our command post and I'll be dressing up like Santa Clause. Of course I'll be calling the family, too, but I figure bringing some of the Christmas traditions, like Santa Clause, will help make it feel more festive."



Staff Sgt. Cody Thibodeaux
A Co. 1088th

"I've been getting a package from home each month, so it's always like Christmas for me. I'm going to call home, though, and talk to my family and friends. Hearing familiar voices will make it seem more like the holidays."



Pfc. Chris Huff
HHC 199th FSB

"I'm going on leave so I'll be home for the holidays. I'll be with my family at my sister's house and I'm going to spend time with my friends, too."



Sgt. David Hammond
D Co. 1/101 Cav.
Attached to 1/69th

"I'm definitely going to call my family and friends on Christmas Day. We're also buying a tree and decorating it in the command post and I'll be putting lights up in my room."

Tigerland MWR

Soldier's Time



Soldier's enjoy the music; thanks to Sgt. 1st Class. Kenneth R. Bucy, Sgt. Zachary A. Huval, Lt. Col. Mark Kerry, and Spc. Jonathan Istre.

Spc. Lauren K. Malbrough learning how to cut the rug with Chief Warrant Officer John Miers.



Playing bones while listening to down home Zydeco and Cajun music.



Ray Scott, founder of Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (BASS), visits Tigerland on his "Iraq Thanksgiving Tour 2004."



Just for Laughs!

L.O.L

Mayflower Journey



The "Ancient One," 2/156 Command Sgt. Maj. Homer Stelly, smiles coily and thinks, "I've seen much on my travels."

Turkey Chase



Isn't that a turkey chasing a turkey? Sgt. Amy Cobb. and Spc. John Graham

Murphy's law

77. Air strikes always overshoot the target, artillery always falls short.
78. When reviewing the radio frequencies that you just wrote down, the most important ones are always illegible.
79. Those who hesitate under fire usually do not end up KIA or WIA.
80. The tough part about being an officer is that the troops don't know what they want, but they know for certain what they don't want.
81. To steal information from a person is called plagiarism. To steal information from the enemy is called gathering intelligence.
82. The weapon that usually jams when you need it the most is the M60.
83. The perfect officer for the job will transfer in the day after that billet is filled by someone else.
84. When you have sufficient supplies & ammo, the enemy takes 2 weeks to attack. When you are low on supplies & ammo the enemy decides to attack that night.
85. The newest and least experienced soldier will usually win the Medal of Honor.
86. A Purple Heart just proves that were you smart enough to think of a plan, stupid enough to try it, and lucky enough to survive.
87. Murphy was a grunt.

Attention: Soldiers and Family Members

If you would like to express yourselves or have something you would like to share (ie. poems, stories, issues you would like to address, quotes, pictures from home, etc). Please send us your submissions for the next edition, Feel free to email us at 256_BCT_PublicAffairsOfficer@1cd.army.mil or any of the PAO staff members. We want your VOICE!